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Higher utility costs strain college budget

Natural gas and electricity fees up by \$74,000

By Vu Vu
Editor

OKCCC, like its students, is pinching pennies this winter.

For the months of December and January, OKCCC spent an extra \$55,554 for natural gas and \$18,661 for electricity, said John Knight, director of the physical plant. He said the bill is expected to grow larger until winter ends.

Arthur Bode, vice-president of business and finance, said the college is looking for ways to make ends meet.

"We are currently reviewing this year's budget to identify additional sources to pay our utility bills," he said.

Brian Alford, spokesman for OG&E, said part of the rise in the electric bill is due to higher consumption and the colder winter weather.

Those aren't the only culprits he said.

"We've had two increases due to natural gas prices," Alford said.

He said there was a 7 percent increase in October and a six and a half percent increase in February.

"The bulk of our [electric] generation is coal-fired, but [that is] not adequate to meet customer demand," Alford said.

Because of the demand, OG&E supplemented with more expensive natural gas.

Bode said that through the end of January, the college spent slightly over 75 percent of its budgeted utility dollars while five more months re-

main in the fiscal year.

The budget for this year's utilities is \$71,375 for natural gas and \$798,501 for electricity.

Bode said after the college reviews the budget, money will be made available from other accounts where expenses have been less than projected.

Bode said he expects the college's utility bill will surpass its budget for the school year.

He said the three main accounts from which the college plans to pay for OKCCC's higher bill are the contingency account, payroll account and the lease-purchase payment account.

The contingency account was created for emergencies and unforeseen opportunities. Money taken from the payroll account doesn't mean lower wages. These monies are from faculty or staff members who have left for other opportunities.

Bode said the college is already in the process of developing the budget for next year.

"The increased cost of utilities will definitely be considered as the final budget is developed and presented to the Board of Regents for approval," Bode said.

In fiscal year 2000, the college used 164,850 cubic centimeters of natural gas and 15,383,273 kilowatt hours.

Alford said the electricity the college uses each year

See "Utilities," page 9

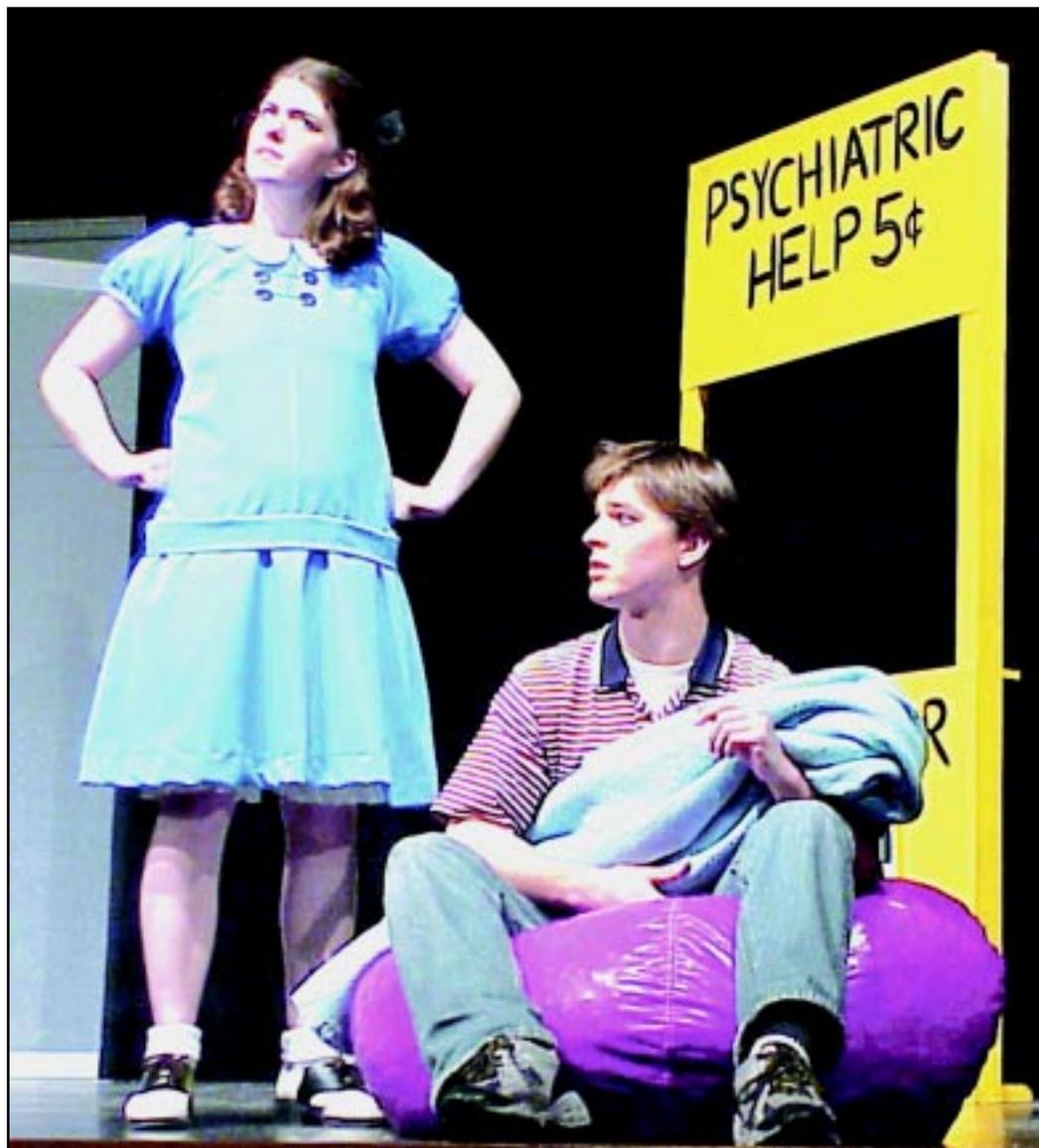


Photo by Melissa DePew

Oh Charlie Brown: Linus, played by student Tommy Cella, clutches tight his blanket as big sister Lucy, played by Liz Allen, claims that she will be queen of Queendom. The two starred in "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" which ran from Feb. 15 through 17 in the college theater.

Road construction nears completion

By Brandi Peterman
Staff Writer

There is a light at the end of the May Avenue construction tunnel. Finishing touches are being completed to the May Avenue widening and resurfacing project.

Improvements to the road included widening May Avenue and resurfacing the pavement.

Kevin Brewer of Brewer Construction said the orange barrels and the dirt in front of OKCCC will be removed by the end of February.

Construction is nearing completion on the intersection of Interstate 240 and

May Avenue. Crews are putting overlay on the ramp and resurfacing the road at the intersection.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation spokesman Dave Rayburn said a work order was issued in December of 1999 and construction began on March 1, 2000.

The job, costing an estimated \$3.2 million dollars, was scheduled to be completed by December of 2000. Rayburn said the job was delayed due to weather.

"Weather is an act of God," he said.

Barring any additional weather problems, improvements to May Avenue

See "May Avenue," page 12

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Get ready for next change

Community colleges are for...the community. They help industries find workers, help universities find students, and overall, help the community better itself.

During the Board of Regents meeting at OKCCC on Feb. 19, several items were discussed pertaining to the welfare of OKCCC and the Oklahoma City Metropolitan area, especially Midwest City.

Tinker Air Force base predicts that in the next five years, about seven to eight thousand civilian workers will retire.

Also, Tinker itself may expand in the future, the regents discussed, possibly adding thousands of more jobs to the metropolitan area.

And with President George W. Bush's stance on increasing the military budget, more jobs may loom for the...community.

President Bush also plans to modernize the military even more.

That means the Oklahoma workforce will need more education, particularly in the technology field, something the college has touted as one of its main goals.

Dr. Todd said the plan was to send our people to Tinker and learn from them. Then our students would learn what our people learn and in the end, 7,000 people have well paying jobs.

There's some military monkey-scratching business going on. And may they keep scratching.

OKCCC, along with its sister school Rose State College and a bevy of vocational/technical schools, have the facilities necessary to fulfill the task at hand.

President Bush wants to ensure our means of self-preservation from the likes of countries with newly or nearly implemented weapons of mass destruction.

Our reputation across the globe seems to have blemishes. Over the years, the vanishing cream is beginning to vanish.

President Bush has a new plan, a new vision.

OKCCC will become a key factor in that.

Throughout the years, it will teach hundreds of thousands of students.

Our community will be enriched with knowledge, and it will flourish.

Oklahoma will regain its sixth congressional seat after losing it according to this year's census, predicted by well-known Oklahoman E.Z. Million.

Oklahoma is the place where the wind comes sweeping down the plains

There's a new wind blowing in Oklahoma.

Get ready.

—Vu Vu
Editor

Smoky confusion school's fault

To the Editor:

Being a smoker, I have always tried to respect the wishes of those who chose not to smoke.

I figured if I have the right to smoke, I don't need to abuse that right by "blowing" it into the faces of other people.

After reading a column today in the PIONEER about smokers ignoring signs around campus saying there is no smoking near the entrances, I had to express my agreement and disagreement with the writer.

First of all I would like to send a personal apology to all non-smokers who feel they have to walk a "gauntlet" of smoke to get to class.

Being the type of person that always thinks of others, I always try my best to abide by the no-smoking areas and I agree that a lot of people do disregard the no smoking signs.

We as smokers do not have the right to "poison" the lungs of those who do

not smoke just because we chose to do it ourselves.

Smokers should have more consideration for those who do not smoke by paying more attention to the signs.

In the defense of smokers, however, it is not that easy to determine where you can and cannot smoke on campus.

OKCCC has done a horrible job of clearly designating where we as smokers can partake in our hazardous activity.

Wherever a no smoking sign can be found on campus, there is usually an "ashcan" sitting right next to it.

One "ashcan" that I have noticed on campus, has no smoking signs plastered all over it. This to me seems to be a contradiction with inanimate object.

This causes serious confusion for smokers and most of us do not have time to sit there and debate whether or not we can smoke there.

All in all, I do agree that smokers should have more respect for non-smokers especially since I personally try to.

On the flip side, OKCCC officials need to do a better job of designating the school's no smoking areas so it can make all of our lives a lot easier.

—Daman Brown
Engineering major

PIONEER

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The PIONEER is a publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. However, the PIONEER will withhold the name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity.

Letters to the editor can be delivered in person to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to 682-7568.

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@okc.cc.ok.us. A phone number for verification must be included.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: <http://www.okc.cc.ok.us>

STRAIGHTJACKET BY: M.C. GAREY



Comments and Reviews

American Indians' history revealed in honest tale

Editor's note: Robert J. Conley will speak about the film Little Big Man in the college theater at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 1.

Robert J. Conley's "Mountain Windsong, A Novel of the Trail of Tears" is a haunting story of the Cherokee experience from the early 1800's into the mid-twentieth century. Conley uses the gentle pathway of memory-narration to lead us through the forest of Cherokee history and lore.

The terrible ordeals of the tribe during the Trail of Tears are revealed. The Cherokee removal began when Andrew Jackson and the state of Georgia coerced the Indians, Jackson's allies against the Creeks, to sell their homeland and move from Georgia from 1838 to 1839.

Perhaps as many as 4000 deaths resulted from the move to Indian Territory.

Conley tells three main stories. The modern thread that ties everything to-

gether is Chooj, a young Cherokee boy. Chooj's mentor is his grandfather who teaches his grandson how to catch crawdads, how to make a traditional blowgun, and how to listen.

The grandfather also tells the boy the old love story of Waguli and Oconechee, a couple whose love for each other is almost destroyed by their experiences during the Trail of Tears. Despite some romantic overtones, Conley's treatment of the Cherokee is honest, and they have faults as well as virtues.

The third story is the complex story of the Cherokees, one of the so-called "civilized" tribes that had assimilated heavily by the early 1800's. Conley tells of Andrew Jackson's betrayal of these people, and he quotes long passages from the treaties and histories of the time to vali-

However, the lasting note of Conley's novel may not be the betrayal or even the terrible hardships placed upon the Cherokee...

—Clay Randolph
English Professor

date the crimes against the Cherokee.

However, the lasting note of Conley's novel may not be the betrayal or even the terrible hardships placed upon the Cherokee.

Perhaps Conley's deepest message is that the Cherokee survived their ordeals and they live on. In the tales of the old grandfather, Chooj learns the most valuable lessons of his family and tribe.

At the end of the novel, Chooj tells his grandfather, "Grandpa. I can hear them. They're singing." He has heard the windsong.

—Clay Randolph
English Professor

Tax time unfair to youngsters

To the Editor:

Let's start with a hypothetical situation: Bob is a 22-year-old student who has not lived with his parents for quite some time (four years as a matter of fact) and has worked for that entire time.

Bob lives independent of his parents. He's filed his own income taxes on money he has earned on his own.

Then why is it that the federal government considers Bob a dependent on his parents until age 24? Why is it that in the age of email that can go around the world in 10 seconds to your digital phone, and online auctions and instant information that it takes one to two weeks for the govern-

ment to send the financial aid office a correction electronically?

Why is that in order to file for financial aid, anyone who is under 24 is considered to be a dependent on their parents even though they have a job and pay their own bills and rent?

To my way of thinking it seems that the federal government is practicing a form of age discrimination. You may disagree with me, but think of it this way.

How many people would be protesting if the federal government said that if you were female or black or Jewish that you had to consider yourself dependent on your parents?

Every group from the Na-

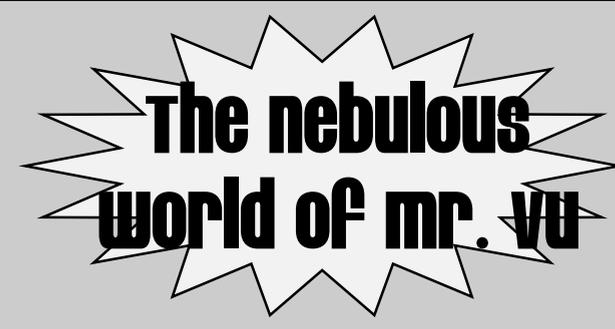
tional Organization of Women to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to the Jewish Anti-Defamation League would be holding protests and rallies and calling for impeachment of our leaders.

Protest groups would form and editorials written denouncing the federal governments' blatant participation in this type of discrimination. And yet at the beginning of each semester discrimination is practiced.

It's time for this discrimination to end. It's time for reform. It's time for change!

Call your congressmen and urge them to change the system.

—Glenn Stone
Political Science



OKCCC OK, not same for giblets

OKCCC is a really nice school. I really love it because of the chicken strips and onion rings.

Not just for the chicken strips and the onion rings, mind you, but for other things too.

I've always wanted to go to a school with three water fountains, carpet covered walls and multi-colored windows in the ceiling.

I've always wanted to go to a school where students can enter the mind of a psychic (happened on Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday).

I've always wanted to go to a school filled to the brim with new technology. I've always wanted to go to a school that cares about its students.

And those chicken strips and onions rings...man...that's good stuff. I choose not to bow to the services rendered by the gravy, however.

I'm a firm opponent of gravy. It's not a solid, and sometimes it's not a liquid.

Sometimes, it has giblets and/or liver in it.

Vu doesn't eat giblets.

No, Vu doesn't eat giblets.

Another thing I enjoy about the college is the Aquatic Center.

They just concluded hosting the second-ever Mountain West swimming and diving championship.

They'd like to thank everyone involved, everyone from the Physical Plant, Sellers Catering (home of my beloved chicken strips and onion rings), all the professors who teach along the pool, all the people whose offices are near the pool, and the volunteers.

An event like this never could have taken place without all people involved.

The people at OKCCC, another reason why this is such a great place to go to school.

You just have stop for a few minutes and look around. Check out what's in those mysterious doors, especially the ones where you hear people laughing, having a good time. Ask the professors why so many of them have white beards.

Get to know your classmates.

Some had their homes destroyed in tornadoes, some save lives everyday, some help bring all the fun we have here.

What other school has three fountains, two of which are in the main building?

Yeah, this is a really nice school. I have one gripe though. Those small desks on the third floor of the main building annoy me. My book, notes and calculator can't all fit on it.

—Vu Vu
Editor

Comments and Reviews

Peanuts gang leave paper for live stage

From the kissing Snoopy to the snobby Lucy, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" was a great reenactment of the 50-year running comic.

OKCCC's very own drama department presented this musical comedy from Feb. 15 through 17.

The comedy included classic Charlie Brown funnies, such as big sister Lucy stealing Linus's blanket, Charlie Brown paying \$.05 to get psychiatric help from Lucy, and the typical Charlie Brown baseball scene.

As usual during the baseball game, Charlie Brown messed up, causing the whole team to be upset be-

cause he made them lose the championship, but it meant more than that to Charlie Brown.

To him, it was an embarrassment that he messed up in front of the girl he adored.

The actors did an outstanding job with the music. There were a few bad notes here and there, but that happens.

Some of the great musical numbers included Snoopy (Devon Arnold) singing "Not Bad At All," Linus (Tommy Cella) singing "My Blanket and Me," and, of course, my favorite scene about the Peter Rabbit book report.

This scene was very lively

and full of action.

All of the characters sang in the song, but they didn't sing the same parts and not always at different times. That definitely took some talent, which the cast smoothly delivered.

The only drawback to this comedy was that many of the small funnies were not funny unless you were familiar with the comic or



By Melissa DePew

cartoon prior to the presentation.

Overall, this was an enjoyable musical, fun for both children and adults

alike.

Good job, OKCCC.

—Melissa DePew
Staff Writer

'MonkeyBone' eccentric, not for all monkey lovers

Nothing could be worse than going into a coma moments before proposing to your girlfriend. But for Stu Miley, that's only the beginning.

"MonkeyBone" stars Brendan Fraser ("The Mummy," "Bedazzled") as Stu Miley, a cartoonist on the verge of hitting it big with his comic-strip-turned-TV show.

Stu has seemingly found true happiness with his girlfriend Julie, played by Bridget Fonda ("Lake Placid," "Jackie Brown"), and has decided to ask her to marry him.

Before he can get around to popping the question, he and his girlfriend are involved in a freak accident that sends Stu to the hospital and into a comatose state.

Once in a coma, Stu's spirit descends into Down-

town.

Downtown, looking like a scene straight out of "Beetlejuice," is a carnival like atmosphere for unconscious people waiting to die or to be sent back to Earth.

While Stu is discovering the ins and outs of Downtown, he bumps into his comic strip creation that has come to life, MonkeyBone.

From there, Stu and MonkeyBone team up to find a way out of Downtown and back into the real world.

"MonkeyBone" is the latest movie from director Henry Selick, who also directed "James and the Giant Peach."

If it wasn't possible to tell that Selick had worked with Tim Burton before, it becomes fiercely apparent in his new feature.

Selick uses Burton's di-

rector formula of the crazier things seem, just wait, it will only get crazier.

The film includes a nice cast of several well-known actors. Whoopi Goldberg stars as Death, and comes complete with a combustible head.

The movie also stars Megan Mullaly ("Will & Grace"), Rose McGowan ("Jawbreaker"), Dave Foley ("Newsradio"), and Chris Kattan ("Saturday Night Live").

"MonkeyBone" isn't the greatest movie out, and it won't be a box office smash.

A semi-well known cast, unique characters, and great scenery save this movie.

Unless you like this type of movie, stay home and save money.

—Mark Stack
Staff Writer

New high-tech twist for old idea

To the Editor:

I have a suggestion for OKCCC. Over the past few years that I have attended OKCCC, I have noticed the bulletin board of pink slips that have lined the wall close to the elevators.

Since the college offers free e-mail service to its students, why not offer a free webpage to post used books?

The students could post the books they want to sell along with a phone number and/or e-mail address. The posting can then be deleted once the book sells or once the posting sits there for 16 weeks.

Right now, students can log on to web sites and search for new and used books across the states for a fraction of the cost.

I have personally used this web site on several occasions and have been extremely happy with the cost savings.

If the college were to offer a free web page that could be linked to the OKCCC home page, then at least our money would stay within Oklahoma and within OKCCC.

This process would be a lot more efficient for students. The college could get rid of the tacky bulletin board and pink slips of paper, and the students could keep their money within Oklahoma.

—Michele Ryan
Student

Read the Pioneer at www.okc.cc.ok.us/pioneer

Administrators say campus renovations on schedule

**By Greg Cline
Newswriting I Student**

Student Facility Revenue Bonds, which are paid through existing student fees, are being used for construction on the campus.

The college library is currently being renovated to accommodate more classrooms, labs, and faculty offices.

Soon, the main building will be going under renovation as well.

The library renovations include converting two wings of the foyer and one of the break rooms into classrooms, and adding five

computer classrooms to the second floor.

The third floor will hold an expanded computer lab and faculty offices.

The fourth floor will house space that can be used for classrooms, training and conference rooms.

Meanwhile, students will have to deal with a few inconveniences.

Tony Samaniego, freshman, said the construction isn't too bothersome.

"There is the occasional bump or clatter or bang," he said. "It's just little things like that but it doesn't really bother me too much."

Nicole Rodriguez, OKCCC student, said the noise isn't

anything she can't deal with.

"The construction has not really bothered me except for when I was watching my telecourses. It is kind of loud but it is not that bad anymore."

When the main building construction begins in May, the first part will commence in the Science Center.

In July 2001, some of the first floor offices now located in the main building such as Enrollment Management, the Training Center, and the Center for Learning and Teaching, will be temporarily relocated to the first and fourth floors of the library.

Arthur Bode, Vice President for Business and Finance, said the renovation is anticipated to be complete by December 2002.

"This date also includes the time necessary for the completion of the main building renovations," he said.

Bode said the construction cost for the renovations is \$7,834,999. After adding an architectural fee of \$450,512, the grand total will be \$8,285,511.

The money for the project comes from bond proceeds. About \$1,200,000 comes from Oklahoma Capital Im-



Photo by Melissa DePew

Gail Armstrong Construction Inc, supervisor Mike Lynch takes OKCCC President Bob Todd and Vice President of Business and Finance Arthur Bode on a tour to view library construction progress. Here, the men are discussing third floor construction.

provement Authority bonds and \$7,625,000 comes from Student Facility Revenue Bonds, Series 2000.

The Triad Design Group

of Oklahoma City is doing the architectural work and Gail Armstrong Construction Inc. of Norman is doing the general contracting.

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Music makes the world go 'round...



Photo by Melissa DePew

Ron Spigelman conducts the Ft. Worth Symphony's Chamber Orchestra "Adventure in Music" concert for young people in the OKCCC theater Feb. 22.

He dazzled the children with lively music, stories and rhythm activities.

Former student draws way to success

Danny Gordon will be at Borders to sign books and get a helping hand from his younger fans

**By Brandi Peterman
Staff Writer**

Illustrator Danny Gordon is on a journey that began with a contest. The former OKCCC student, 37, received his big break when he entered the contest offered by Novel Approach Publication, LLC in Kansas City.

Owner Debbie A. Atwood was looking for a face for the character of her new book, "Jasper's Magic Blanket."

In a prior interview Atwood said contestants were asked to read the 'Jasper' manuscript and draw a picture of the main character.

"When I received Danny's entry, I knew immediately that he was the one for this project," she said.

"Danny has managed to create characters with personality that readers can't help but fall in love with."

Gordon's entry beat out more than 57 other applicants.

Borders book stores will be hosting a book signing for "Jasper's Magic Blanket." Gordon and Atwood will be in attendance.

The first will be at the Norman Borders, 300 Norman Center Court, on Thursday, March 22, from 3 to 4 p.m. The Borders location at 3209 N.W. Expressway will host Gordon Saturday, March 24 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gordon will also be doing a demonstration. Children will get the chance to help him name some characters from his book.

Gordon is currently working on projects for "Oklahoma Today Magazine" and "Oklahoma Woman."

Gordon majored in graphics communications at OKCCC from 1995 to 1997.

For more info, visit www.novel-approach.com



Danny Gordon shows off some of his work that will grace the pages of the book "Jasper's Magic Blanket."

Debbie A. Atwood said she was looking for a face for the character of her book when Gordon submitted his work through a contest.

Gordon's entry beat out more than 57 other applicants.



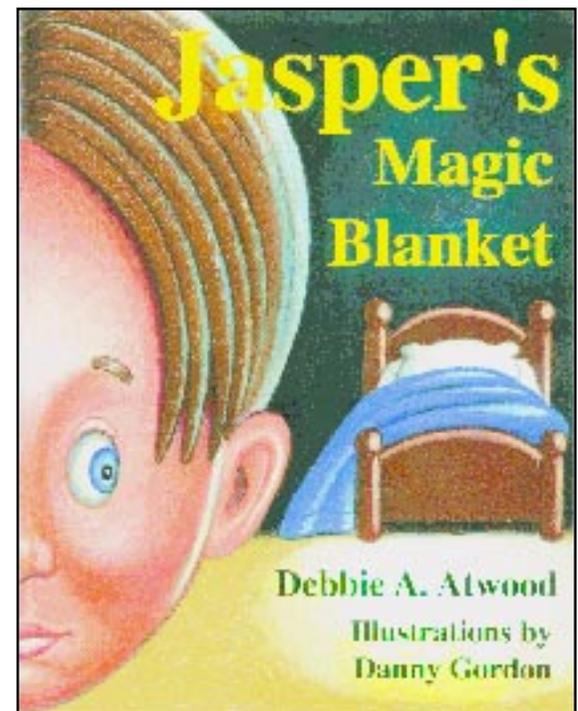
Donald Asher

The public is invited to hear his lecture:

"HOW TO BEAT 1000 TO 1 ODDS TO GET THE JOB OF YOUR DREAMS AND GET STARTED NOW ON YOUR REAL CAREER; How to Quit Making Excuses and Get Going on Your Future, and *Why It Doesn't Matter How Old You Are, How Many Kids You Have, or Whatever Else You're Using Now as an Excuse!*"

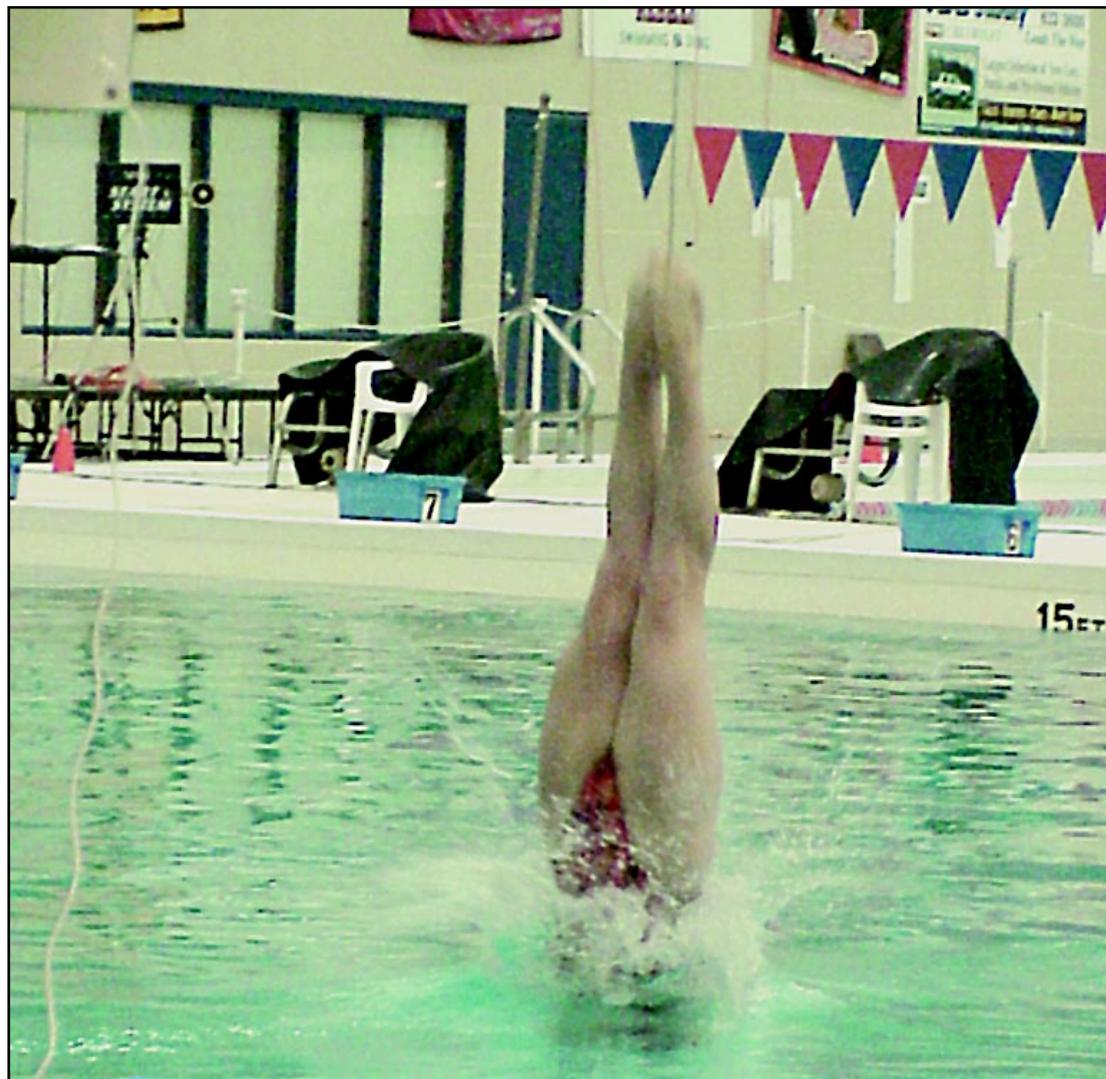
Noon, Feb. 28, College Union Rooms 2&3

• **ADMISSION IS FREE** •



The cover of the children's book "Jasper's Magic Blanket," as well as the inside illustrations, were drawn by former OKCCC student Danny Gordon. He will have book signings at Norman Borders, 300 Norman Center Court, March 22 from 3 to 4 p.m. The Borders location at 3209 N.W. Expressway will host Gordon March 24 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Mountain West Conference makes big splash at OKCCC



Above: The men prepare for the 400-yard Freestyle Relay Finals on Feb. 17. This event concluded the 2001 Mountain West Conference.

Left: Sara Green delivers great form on her dive during the Women's Three-Meter Springboard Prelims Feb. 15.

Photos by
Melissa DePew



**By Vu Vu
Editor**

There were hundreds of stories on that cold February week, but two stories sparkled a little brighter than the rest, two weeks ago in the Aquatic Center.

Good things happen in a year's time. Bad things too.

Both stories started in the same direction when David Schick, currently a junior, sprinted west for the University of Las Vegas in 1998.

"It's different, that's for sure," Schick said of his new home in the desert.

"It's a 24-hour city, that's all I can say."

Erin Smith, a sophomore, propelled for the mountainous University of New Mexico in 1999.

The plains of Oklahoma still linger in her mind.

"The mountains are so weird for me to see every morning," Smith said.

"You look out and see a mountain. It just looks so fake because Albuquerque is so flat."

Schick, then a sophomore, scorched the competition at the first Mountain West swimming and diving championship. Smith, a freshman competing in her first NCAA conference championship, did better than expected.

Schick, from Jenks, dunked the competition in the 100-yard butterfly and 200 backstroke, becoming the first Mountain West Conference champion in those events.

Smith, from Westmoore, finished in eighth place in the 500-yard freestyle, 11th in the 1650 freestyle and 16th place in the 200 freestyle which displayed her maturity despite being only a freshman.

With a year under their belts, both planned to swim even better at this year's MWC's championship, es-

pecially because the Aquatic Center had been their home pool as kids and high schoolers.

It was also where Schick helped his team capture the state championship.

Great stories so far, but 2001 was different.

Schick didn't win any individual event, finishing in the middle of the pack in most races. However, the points he contributed helped his Rebels in their lead over 15th ranked Brigham Young University.

UNLV led for two days.

"Hopefully, if we do everything right, we'll stay that way," Schick said.

In the pool, the Rebels did everything right, winning first through fifth place in the men's 100 butterfly (Wyoming tied for second). Schick, last year's winner, placed fourth.

UNLV, after inching ahead of BYU on the second rotation, won the 800-yard freestyle relay.

Diving, however, was their bane. BYU's swimmers did just enough to keep close to UNLV and their divers would finish the kill.

BYU's touted diving core ripped the lead from UNLV's clutches on the final day of the event, sweeping the first four spots in platform diving and earning the Cougars their second consecutive championship.

For Smith, things didn't turn out all that great either. Her Lobos remained at the bottom of the pack.

"Very bad," Smith said when asked how she did during the 200-yard freestyle preliminary.



photo courtesy of Mountain West

Above: BYU and UNLV battle it out in the butterfly during the Mountain West swimming and diving championship from Feb. 13 to 17.

"I didn't make it back for finals."

In the 500-yard freestyle, Smith finished in 16th place, eight spots below last year.

But there is good news. There will be another sequel.

The Mountain West plans to return for a third year in February.

Schick and Smith will have another shot in their home pool, another chance to win.

Single parents often juggle demands of college, family life

By Michaela Marx
Contributing Writer

Being a single parent can be tough, but being a working single parent and college student is a juggling act without comparison.

Public relations major Michele Schweitzer knows about that. Last semester she carried 16 credit hours and worked a night job while raising two children on her own.

"I have no time for myself," she said at the time.

Child care is a big concern. She said her children are too young to be left alone but too old for many day care programs.

Schweitzer said many professors understand her situation. Some even allowed her to bring her kids.

"That helps," she said.

One helpful thing OKCCC offers for single parents is online classes, Schweitzer said. She said she can do the coursework at home, but said online classes require a lot of discipline.

OKCCC student Erika Swaity said, for her, the hardest thing is not knowing if her two young children are well-cared for.

OKCCC student Debbie Morgan is the mother of a toddler. She said she struggles to find enough time to study and also give enough attention to her son.

All agreed that finding babysitting and day care is the biggest problem.

The college has a Child Development Center on campus. Infants, six weeks and older, to kindergarten-age children, play and learn at the full-day center. However, Swaity said, the space is very limited and the wait is long.

Morgan said it would be good if day care openings were increased.

Schweitzer said it would be helpful if classes for older children were offered.

Charlotte Wood-Wilson,

director of the Child Development Center, said it is important for parents to plan ahead.

"Sometimes people show up with their kids at the first day of classes," said Wood-Wilson.

She said some parents think they can just drop off their kids, but to get in the child development center, parents have to follow a procedure.

Parents have to come to the child development center, take a tour and fill out a form, she said. However, space is limited. The total capacity of the center is 67, Wood-Wilson said. Currently there is a waiting list that ranges from 18 to 24 months.

The regular rate at the Child Development Center is \$120 a week for infants and toddlers, \$105 a week for all other children. OKCCC full-time students receive a \$20 discount.

The center received a grant, which makes it possible to minimize the cost to parents or waive the tuition altogether. However, she said, qualification is need-based.

Wood-Wilson said parents need to make an informed decision when

shopping for child care. She said it is wise to check out more than one day care center. Also, she said, parents can call the Department of Human Services and check the day care's DHS licensing.

Further, she said, it is wise not to go exclusively by reputation. Wood-Wilson said directors and teachers change and with them so does the child care center.

The college's Student Development Center also provides a number of services to single parents.

Larry Golden, counselor, said academic advising and career counseling are available at the counselor's office.

He said planning helps to save time and brings some order into busy lives.

Above all, Golden said, personal counseling is important because single parents often experience a great deal of stress and frustration. Sometimes they simply need someone to talk to, he said.

For more information on any of the college programs, call 682-1611 and ask the college operator for the corresponding department.



Power, gas usage up

"Utilities,"

Cont. from page 1

could power 1,250 Oklahoma homes each month for a year.

Knight said the college has implemented cost and energy saving measures. He said the entire campus is heated with natural gas, except for the Arts and Humanities building which is heated by electricity.

Students feel pinch of higher utilities

She usually keeps the temperature at 74 to 76 degrees when it's cold out and turns the dial higher when it's blustery.

But when natural gas prices were jacked up due to colder temperatures and greater demand, she had to turn down the heat.

"We layer now and dig out blankets or long johns, or even both," said Deanna Sloan, a junior at the University of Oklahoma who also attends OKCCC.

"I had to lower my [thermostat] even though I didn't want to."

Sloan is a part-time OKCCC student. Her gas bill went from \$50 in December to \$170 in January.

"I had to go to the average payment plan," Sloan said. "That's all I could afford,"

Because of the extra pinch on the penny, Sloan said she's had to cut back on luxury items like entertainment and junk food.

Sloan doesn't work, but takes 18 credit hours per semester.

"I need a part-time job to pay my bills, especially utilities."

To pay the increased bill, she's had to dip into her savings.

"It's ridiculous."

OKCCC business major Brian Vaughn turns off his gas in the daytime.

"I don't even know why it's expensive," Vaughn said.

Vaughn shares his home with two other people and doesn't have to scrimp as much.

"Our bill was \$200 for one month."

CAMPUS SECURITY INCIDENTS

Car break-ins, thefts reported

By Mark Stack
Staff Writer

OKCCC campus parking lots have been the scene of several break-ins this month with two occurring in lot E, on the west side of the Aquatics Center.

Two people reported that, on Feb. 15, their cars were broken into while parked in lot E.

Glenda Carter reported that when she returned to her 1992 Plymouth Sundance at about 12:30 p.m. she noticed her passenger side window had been smashed.

Carter reported that thieves made off with her Sony CD player and about \$4 in cash.

A report shows the Sony CD player valued at \$300, and \$100 worth of damage done to the window.

The next burglary was reported just minutes later as Roger VanDyck returned to his car at about 12:35 p.m.

VanDyck told Bourque there were no signs of forcible entry into his car. However, once inside, VanDyck noticed \$200 in cash and his checkbook were both missing.

Campus security also reported a hit-and-run incident took place Feb. 10.

Debra Maxey reported that she arrived at school around 7:30 a.m. When she returned to her car around 11 a.m., she said, she noticed damage to the rear bumper of her 1996 Geo Prizm, parked in lot A, on the east side of the campus.

No suspects have been named in any of these incidents.

Author dedicated to preserving Cherokee heritage

By **Katheryn Mohr**
Newswriting I Student

Native American author Robert J. Conley will lecture about Arthur Penn's movie "Little Big Man" at 6 p.m. March 1 at the college theater.

Conley's extensive understanding of Native American history and culture made him a credible candidate to lecture over this film, said Clay Randolph, an OKCCC English professor.

The point of the series "The Evolving Portrait of Native Americans in Film" is to explore the stereotypes that surround Native American films.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Following the lecture "Little Big Man" will be shown.

Conley will contribute his own unique interpretation to "Little Big Man" in his speech.

Several years ago, Randolph heard Conley lecture and was impressed with his use of language and understanding of literature.

"I recently read "Windsong," a novel based on the Trail of Tears, and I realized Conley is a masterful writer with a deep understanding of Native Ameri-

can peoples," said Randolph.

"Little Big Man" tells the story of a young white boy captured and raised by Cheyenne Indians. Conflict arises when the boy realizes he is not from Cheyenne descent.

According to his website, Conley is a Cherokee Indian who dedicates his life to preserving his heritage. As a result, Conley brings a unique perspective to Native American culture.

Conley is noted for accurately depicting the Old West, focusing on the history, tradition and folklore of the Cherokee people.

Conley has acquired several honors such as the Ozark Creative Writers Award, three Spur awards for best western short fiction, and induction into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame in 1997.

Since Conley published his first book "Back to Malachi" in

1986, he has written nearly 40 novels.

Conley's talent extends beyond being a novelist.

He also is a poet and short story author. He received critical acclaim for his novelization of the screenplay "Geronimo: An American Legend."

For more information about Robert Conley visit his website at www.Hanksville.org/storytellers/conley.



Robert Conley

PR director joins State Regents

By **Brandi Peterman**
Staff Writer

OKCCC recently said goodbye to an old friend.

Harve Allen worked for the OKCCC's public relations department for the last four years.

He recently took a position as Director of Media Relations with Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.



Harve Allen

"I was flattered to be offered the position," said Allen.

Allen said everyone at OKCCC was very excited for him but were also sad to see him go.

"This position gives me the opportunity to promote the education system as a whole, not individually as at OKCCC," said Allen.

"Opportunities like this one don't come along very often. I will miss everyone at OKCCC," he said.

"You get used to working with people day in and day out and it's hard to change.

"I prayed a lot about this new job, I felt like the time was right.

"I know there is a reason why I am here."

Allen holds a degree in both journalism and business administration from the University of Oklahoma. He earned a master's degree in public relations from Midwestern State in Wichita Falls, Texas.

In 1988 Allen became assistant sports information director at Midwestern State.

After eight years with MSU he returned to Oklahoma to take the position with OKCCC.

Scholarships available for those from all walks of life

By **Mark Stack**
Staff Writer

Do you own a Harley Davidson? Are you the daughter of a U.S. Army officer? Do one of your parents work for Southwestern Bell?

These are just a few of the requirements for the numerous scholarships OKCCC students may be eligible for.

The Office of Prospective

Student Services will be offering a workshop where OKCCC students can learn about the many scholarships for which they can apply.

The workshop is entitled "How to Play the Scholarship Game and Win!" It will be held at 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on March 6 in CU8.

"The workshop deals with how to find scholarships and where to look,"



said Michael Franco, Coordinator of Community Outreach.

According to the Prospective Student Services, nearly \$9 billion in scholarship money goes unclaimed every year.

Franco said that is because students don't apply for them.

"Students don't really know what all is out there and what all they can ap-

ply for," he said.

"A lot of times students don't apply because they think [scholarships] are based on their grade point average or their ACT score when usually those activities don't have anything to do with the scholarships," said Franco.

He said the workshop would give students hints on how to write essays, arrange their essays, what to include in their essays and how to go about getting reference letters.

The workshop will also show how to search the Internet to find scholarships.

They will show students website locations where they can build profiles so that the sites can search scholarships for them.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the "How to Play the Scholarship Game and Win" workshop, drop by the Office of Prospective Student Services or call 682-1611, ext. 7580.

Highlights

Don't fret

For those of you who would like to check out the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, but are not here on Thursdays, be sure to check them out on Mondays. They are starting a prayer time at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays in the Main Building room 2P7. There will still be FREE LUNCH on Thursdays at 12:30 as usual.

PTK 2001 graduates

Members of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society who are planning to participate in the 2001 Graduation Ceremonies are eligible to purchase and wear the Phi Theta Kappa stole and tassel. The advisers and officers recommend purchasing the items early and suggest that several members order together to save shipping and handling costs. For more information and an order blank contact the Phi Theta Kappa office at 682-1611 ext. 7771 or Richard Rouillard at 682-1611 ext. 7389.

Show me the money

OKCCC's Recreation and Community Services will offer two entrepreneurial seminars presented by LeeAnne Krusemark, a successful southern California entrepreneur. "How to Cash in with a Successful Home-Based Business" and "How to Make Money with a Home-Based Typing/Word Processing Business" will be held on Feb. 26. Home based business will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., followed by Typing/Word processing from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Each class will specialize in turning your talents and hobbies into profits by learning how and where to find clients and how to advertise and market your services. Each class is \$35 with a \$10 materials fee payable to the instructor. For more information or to enroll, contact Jonie Welle, Community Education Coordinator, at 682-1611 ext. 7205.

All aboard!

The Computer Aided Design Society (CADS) of Oklahoma will be taking a field trip to the Art Institute of Dallas on Friday, March 22. We will meet at entry 6 (parking lot D) at 6 a.m. and return the same day at 11 p.m. The trip is free to students, faculty and staff. A free lunch will be provided, too. A sign up sheet is located at the Advanced Computer Lab door or you can also send an e-mail at cads@po.okc.cc.ok.us. Don't miss this exciting event.

MDA is in need of your help

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is seeking young people to volunteer as camp counselors for their summer camps for children with muscle disease. MDA is in need of both male and female counselors to assist with the camping program. The MDA camp will be from June 2 through 8 and June 30 through July 6 and will be held at the Central Oklahoma Christian Camp near Guthrie. At the MDA camp, counselors work one on one with the campers to provide care, supervision, attention and friendship to children with limited mobility. The volunteers must be 16 years of age and must complete MDA's camp training program. For more information on becoming a camp counselor or to donate supplies, please call (405)722-8001.

Transfer Days ahead

The University of Oklahoma will be offering three Transfer Days for students interested in enrolling early for the summer and/or fall semester(s). Transfer Days will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 29; and from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, March 30, on the OU campus. For more information, contact Kathryn Prusinski at 325-2151.



Photo by Melissa DePew

Good eats, better prizes: Adam Benson buys a few brownies to support the Computer Aided Design Society's fund-raiser. Vice-President Bryon Thomas and other CADS members sold concessions on Feb. 20 through 23 to raise money for several organizations. Donations will be split three ways: a third will go to Small Miracles International, another third will go towards Covenant Presbyterian's Mother's Day Out, and the last will go to the Computer Aided Design Society for a field trip to the Art Institute of Dallas. Each donation entered the donor into a drawing for prizes. The drawing was held on Feb. 23 in the College Union.

Job Fair offers variety of careers for students

By Mark Stack
Staff Writer

Need a job? Interested in building a career for the future?

The Job Fair is the perfect place for students to get information on available jobs.

The spring Job Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, in College Union 1, 2, and 3.

"The Job Fair is a service we offer to students to help them in gaining substantial employment," said Karlen Grayson, employment assistant in the office of Student Life.

Grayson also said this is the place for students to see what the job market is like and to meet employers.

The employers can tell students about their com-

panies and what they are looking for.

This will help the students so that they can better prepare for the profession they plan on going into.

Representatives will be available from Sears, Radio Shack, the U.S. Army, Tinker Air Force Base, First Fidelity Bank, Bank of Oklahoma, the FBI, and Office Depot, along with 20 or more others.

This is an opportunity for students to find out what a certain job is like and if they are seriously interested in it.

Students can find out the qualifications for certain jobs as well as finding jobs that go along with their selected majors.

Students need to prepare their resumes and dress professionally.

Some companies have been known to interview

people right there on the spot.

"This is a fun event for both the serious student seeking employment in a career field and the student who is just looking for a way to pay the bills and make some money," said Grayson.

"The Job Fair is a great way to see what businesses are looking for help and a great way to learn more about a company that people might have a career in," said OKCCC student and business major Tim Weaver.

For more information on the Job Fair and the companies that are involved, visit the student life website www.okc.cc.ok.us/studentlife/ges or contact Karlen Grayson at 682-1611 ext. 7519.

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Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is **free** to all **currently enrolled OKCCC students** and employees for any **personal classified ad**. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611, ext. 7674 for more information.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '95 Dodge pickup truck, long bed, power windows, power locks, green and silver, runs good, excellent condition. \$7,000. Call 834-9272.

FOR SALE: '94 Jeep Wrangler S, \$7,800. 4-cylinder, soft top and bikini top, alarm, cd/stereo, tow package, 80k miles, rarely driven, owned 18 months. Call 376-0086 or 650-4704.

FOR SALE: '93 Dodge Daytona. Excellent condition, new paint job, new transmission, \$2,800 OBO. Call Jason at 823-0918 or 634-3058.

FOR SALE: '76 Dodge Dart Swinger, new original paint job, clean, runs great. \$6,000 firm. Call 601-7711.

FOR SALE: '69 Chevy pickup. Straight 6, baby blue, runs good, \$2,500 OBO. Call 601-7711.

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FOR SALE: Washer and dryer set. White, 8 years old. Both work. \$100. Call Crystal at 601-4280.

FOR SALE: Bunk beds, wood, needs one new mattress. \$100 OBO. Call Crystal at 601-4280.

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with lighted headboard. New mattress and heater. \$150. Call Dortha at 670-4328.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Did the crawl
- 5 Tops of cars
- 10 Toy on a string
- 14 Actress Capshaw
- 15 Comic Murphy
- 16 Branding —
- 17 Whirlybird inventor Sikorsky
- 18 Juice from 22-Across
- 19 Lima's place
- 20 Pittsburgh players
- 22 Orchard fruits
- 24 Newt
- 25 "The African Queen" scriptwriter
- 26 Marilyn —
- 29 Customers
- 33 Gather
- 34 Indian garment
- 36 Affirmative vote
- 37 Sedan or coupe
- 38 Old-fashioned brooch
- 39 Science room
- 40 Mandela's org.
- 41 Singer Redding
- 42 Ordinary speech
- 44 Smart aleck
- 47 Frankfurter
- 48 Cat's murmur
- 49 One, no matter

DOWN

- 1 Omit
- 2 Word following "minimum"
- 3 Like — of bricks
- 4 Business deals
- 5 Enumerate
- 6 Norse god
- 7 Chances
- 8 "For shame!"
- 9 Harem
- 10 Shout of glee
- 11 Pitcher
- 12 Days of —: long ago
- 13 Blame
- 21 Sci-fi craft
- 23 Can. province
- 25 Land measures

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

A	M	A	N	D	A	B	O	G	B	I	T	E
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- 32 Cavalry sword
- 34 Mythical creature
- 35 French friend
- 38 Traversing
- 42 Cone producer
- 43 "— the Fox"
- 45 Noteworthy periods
- 46 Six-shooter
- 47 Worked in a restaurant
- 50 Hearty's partner
- 51 Always
- 52 Raise
- 53 Mayberry kid
- 54 Ploy
- 55 Helen of —
- 56 Flu symptom
- 57 House sites
- 60 Neither fish — fowl

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Crew says weather delayed construction

"May Avenue,"
Cont. from page 1

should be complete by March 31, Rayburn said.

Brewer Construction began to be penalized \$500 per day on Dec. 6 for every day the project was left uncompleted.

Brewer Construction denies rumors that the May Avenue project was being delayed in order to complete another job.

"Our men have been at the May Avenue site every day that weather permitted," said Brewer.

Students of OKCCC expressed their frustration with the construction mayhem.

"It really slowed down the drive along May Avenue," said Greg Cline, broadcasting major at OKCCC.

"I was late for class several times."

Though the process seemed to drag on, the end result was very rewarding to travelers of May Avenue.

OKCCC student Angela Hoskisson said the wider road makes it a lot safer. The turn lane should cut down on accidents, she added.



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